

Jan Vymazal *Editor*

The Role of Natural and Constructed Wetlands in Nutrient Cycling and Retention on the Landscape

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Springer

Editor

Jan Vymazal
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
Faculty of Environmental Sciences
Department of Applied Ecology
Praha
Czech Republic
and
ENKI, o.p.s.
Třeboň
Czech Republic

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Preface

The first workshop bearing the title “Nutrient Cycling in Natural and Constructed Wetlands” was organized at Třeboň, South Bohemia, in September 1995. The major organizing principle was to bring together scientists and researchers dealing with both natural and constructed wetlands; the majority of previous wetland conferences and seminars on these topics had been held separately. The first edition of this seminar was attended mostly by people dealing with constructed wetlands, but over the years, natural wetlands had become an increasingly substantial part of this workshop. The joint meeting has proven to be beneficial for both groups as interaction of natural and constructed wetland researchers is still limited. The International Water Association conferences on constructed wetlands and WETPOL conferences are usually not attended by many natural wetland researchers, while the Society of Wetland Scientists and INTECOL WETLANDS conferences mostly deal with natural wetlands. We believe that the interactions fostered by communication among all wetland researchers will continue to be a benefit for the full community.

The eighth meeting of this series took place again at Třeboň on May 17–22, 2013, this time entitled “The Role of Natural and Constructed Wetlands in Nutrient Cycling and Retention on the Landscape.” The workshop was attended by participants from 17 countries in Europe, North America, and Australia. This volume contains a selection from the papers presented during the workshop—the first part of the book is mostly devoted to natural wetlands, while the second part deals with the use of constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment.

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April 2014

Jan Vymazal



Photo: Ketil Haarstad

Contributors

Anto Aasa Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Neil O. Anderson Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN, USA

Jacob M. Bannister School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

Jan Barak School of Applied Sciences, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK

Herbert John Bavor Centre for Water and Environmental Technology – Water Research Laboratory, University of Western Sydney – Hawkesbury, Penrith, NSW, Australia

Anne-Grete Buseth Blankenberg Bioforsk, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Aas, Norway

Miria Bracali Casa Vinicola Luigi Cecchi e Figli, Castellina in Chianti, SI, Italy

Riccardo Bresciani IRIDRA Srl, Firenze, Italy

Hana Čížková Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Christopher B. Craft School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

Etienne Dantan Atelier Reeb, Strasbourg, France

Gabriela Dotro School of Applied Sciences, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK

Waste Water Research and Development, Severn Trent Water, Coventry, West Midlands, UK

Sergey Egorov Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Olivier Faure GéoSciences and Environnement Département, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines, Saint-Etienne Cedex 2, France

Monika Filipová Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic

Ilya Filippov UNESCO Chair of Environmental Dynamics and Climate Change, Yugra State University, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

Raul Prieto Fort School of Applied Sciences, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK

Hannu Fritze Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Alenka Gaberščik Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Geoffrey Gabiri Department of Geography, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
Department of Agricultural Production, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Magdalena Gajewska Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poznań, Poland

Joan García GEMMA – Group of Environmental Engineering and Microbiology, Department of Hydraulic, Maritime and Environmental Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech, Barcelona, Spain

Iuliana Gheorghe Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Ecological University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

Primož Gnezda Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Bernard Guy GéoSciences and Environnement Département, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines, Saint-Etienne Cedex 2, France

Ketil Haarstad Bioforsk, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Aas, Norway

Raimund Haberl Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Libuše Hamadejová Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Petra Hesslerová ENKI, o.p.s, Třeboň, Czech Republic

Hanna Huryna Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

ENKI, o.p.s., Třeboň, Czech Republic

Hannu Ilvesniemi Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Järvi Järveoja Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Bruce Jefferson School of Applied Sciences, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK

Vladimír Jirka ENKI, o.p.s., Třeboň, Czech Republic

Mark Jones Waste Water Research and Development, Severn Trent Water, Coventry, West Midlands, UK

Annu Kaila Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Kuno Kasak Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Katja Klančnik Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Harri Koivusalo Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Aalto University School of Science and Technology, Aalto, Finland

Katarzyna KołECKA Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poznań, Poland

Markku Koskinen Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Jan Květ Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Fatima Laggoun-Défarge Institut des Sciences de la Terre d'Orléans, CNRS-Université d'Orléans, Orléans, France

Günter Langergraber Institute of Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Ari Laurén Finnish Forest Research Institute, Joensuu, Finland

Piet L. N. Lens UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands

Richard Lhotský ENKI, o.p.s., Třeboň, Czech Republic

Charles Kizza Luswata Department of Agricultural Production, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Martin Maddison Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Ülo Mander Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Hydrosystems and Bioprocesses Research Unit, National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (Irstea), Antony Cedex, France

Fabio Masi IRIDRA Srl, Firenze, Italy

Njenga Mburu UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands

Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kakamega, Kenya

Daniel Meyer Freshwater Systems, Ecology and Pollution Research Unit, IRSTEA, Villeurbanne Cedex, France

William J. Mitsch Everglades Wetland Research Park, Kapnick Center, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL, USA

Mika Nieminen Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Hannu Nousiainen Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Hanna Obarska-Pempkowiak Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poznań, Poland

Hlynur Óskarsson Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Agricultural University of Iceland, Borgarnes, Iceland

Arkadiusz Ostojki Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poznań, Poland

Jaan Pärn Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Adam M. Paruch Bioforsk, Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Aas, Norway

Stéphanie Pellerin Institut de recherche en biologie végétale, Université de Montréal, Jardin botanique de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada

Jan Pokorný ENKI, o.p.s, Třeboň, Czech Republic

Alexander Pressl Institute for Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Georges Reeb Atelier Reeb, Strasbourg, France

Brianna Richards School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

Diederik P. L. Rousseau Department of Industrial Biological Sciences, Ghent University, Kortrijk, Belgium

Jana Rychterová Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Tapani Sallantaus Natural Environment Center, Biodiversity Unit, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Jüri-Ott Salm Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Estonian Fund for Nature, Tartu, Estonia

Roger Samsó GEMMA – Group of Environmental Engineering and Microbiology, Department of Hydraulic, Maritime and Environmental Engineering, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech, Barcelona, Spain

Sakari Sarkkola Finnish Forest Research Institute, Vantaa, Finland

Batdelger Shinen Centre for Water and Environmental Technology – Water Research Laboratory, University of Western Sydney – Hawkesbury, Penrith, NSW, Australia

Adam Sochacki Environmental Biotechnology Department, Faculty of Power and Environmental Engineering, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland

GéoSciences and Environnement Département, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines, Saint-Etienne Cedex 2, France

Kristina Sohar Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Kaido Soosaar Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Marzena Stosik Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poznań, Poland

Karel Suchý Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Joanna Surmacz-Górska Environmental Biotechnology Department, Faculty of Power and Environmental Engineering, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland

Alar Teemusk Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Moses M. Tenywa Department of Agricultural Production, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Eeva-Stiina Tuittila School of Forest Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

Peter Vale Waste Water Research and Development, Severn Trent Water, Coventry, West Midlands, UK

Johan J. A. van Bruggen UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands

Harri Vasander Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Jorge A. Villa Institut des Sciences de la Terre d'Orléans, CNRS-Université d'Orléans, Orléans, France

Christina Vohla Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Jan Vymazal Department of Applied Ecology, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences, Praha 6, Czech Republic
ENKI, o.p.s, Třeboň, Czech Republic

Ewa Wojciechowska Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poznań, Poland

Igor Zelnik Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Chapter 1

Biomass Production in Permanent Wet Grasslands Dominated with *Phalaris arundinacea*: Case Study of the Třeboň Basin Biosphere Reserve, Czech Republic

Hana Čížková, Jana Rychterová, Libuše Hamadejová, Karel Suchý, Monika Filipová, Jan Květ, and Neil O. Anderson

Abstract *Phalaris arundinacea* is a highly productive perennial grass which inhabits both natural and human-affected wetlands. Along with natural genotypes, there are a number of cultivars bred for fodder production, especially in cool climatic areas. At present *P. arundinacea* is being investigated as a potential energy crop. Use of seminatural and natural stands of *P. arundinacea* as an energy resource requires a knowledge of the variation of aboveground biomass production, which forms the agricultural yield. This work gives an overview of long-term investigation of the production of *P. arundinacea* on various types of natural biotopes. It also presents results of a detailed field experiment assessing the effects of various management (cutting frequency, mulching, fertilizing) on the production of aboveground biomass in a seminatural wetland dominated by *P. arundinacea*. The results confirm that monodominant stands of *P. arundinacea* attain a high production in Central Europe. The seasonal maximum of aboveground biomass of natural stands ranged from 4 to 14 metric tonnes dry weight per hectare ($\text{t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$) with an average of 9.5 t ha^{-1} . Among the management types, the lowest annual agricultural yield of 4.1 t ha^{-1} (dry weight) was found in the treatment one cut per year and no fertilization. The maximum yield of 11 t ha^{-1} was achieved under three cuts per year and fertilization with a double dose of N and single doses of P and K. Two cuts

H. Čížková (✉) • J. Rychterová • L. Hamadejová • K. Suchý
Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České
Budějovice, Czech Republic
e-mail: hcizkova@zf.jcu.cz

M. Filipová
Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University, Zemědělská 1, 613 00 Brno, Czech Republic

J. Květ
Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice,
Czech Republic

N.O. Anderson
Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 305 Alderman Hall, 1970
Folwell Avenue, 55108 Saint Paul, MN, USA

per year and fertilization by P and K seem to combine the production and non-production functions in an optimum way.

Keywords Aboveground biomass • Energy crop • Wetland • Yield

1.1 Introduction

Phalaris arundinacea L. (reed canary grass) is a highly productive, C3 cool season perennial grass naturally occurring in floodplains and other wetland biotopes of temperate climates (Merigliano and Lesica 1998). Due to its high biomass production and tolerance of fairly harsh climates, it has been used as a forage crop in areas of northern Europe and North America (Galatowitsch et al. 1999; Merigliano and Lesica 1998). The species is also used as a perennial cover in pastures (Casler et al. 1998; Hoveland 1992; Kading and Kreil 1990; Riesterer et al. 2000) and as a mixture or pure stand forage crop (Buxton et al. 1998; Ostrem 1988; Sheaffer and Marten 1992). Forage cultivars low in alkaloid content have been bred and introduced as commercial cultivars (Coulman 1995; Coulman et al. 1977; Ostrem 1987; Narasimhalu et al. 1995; Wittenberg et al. 1992).

Shoreline restoration and revegetation programmes have planted *Phalaris* (Figiel et al. 1995). Soil and water restoration projects have used *Phalaris* for phytoremediation: impoundment of acid slurries (Olsen and Chong 1991) and soil contaminant removal (Lasat et al. 1997; Samecka-Cymerman and Kempers 2001; Chekol et al. 2002). Wastewater treatment facilities have also employed *Phalaris* for removal of N forms (Groffman et al. 1991; Sikora et al. 1995; Vymazal 1995, 2001; Zhu and Sikora 1995).

Recently *P. arundinacea* has attracted attention also as a potential bioenergy crop (Burvall 1997; Hadders and Olsson 1997; Hallam et al. 2001; Lewandowski et al. 2003; Nilsson and Hansson 2001) and is currently in production for this purpose in Finland and Sweden (Lewandowski and Schmidt 2006). Its fresh and ensilaged biomass can be used for biogas production (Prochnow et al. 2009). Dry biomass can be used for burning both separately and in combination with coal, as feedstock for thermochemical processes such as pyrolysis and gasification to produce methanol, synthesis gas and pyrolysis oils and for biochemical processes (fermentation and anaerobic digestion) to produce ethanol or methane (Hallam et al. 2001). It can also be used as a short fibre raw material for the pulp and paper industry (Finell 2003; Hellqvist et al. 2003; Papatheofanous et al. 1995; Saijonkari-Pahkala 2001).

Phalaris arundinacea is native to Europe, North and Eastern Asia and, to a limited extent, in North America (Merigliano and Lesica 1998). Only a few, non-aggressive populations of *Phalaris* are native in North America – predating European settlements (Merigliano and Lesica 1998). *Phalaris arundinacea* was introduced to North America in the 1850s (Lavergne and Molofsky 2004), although Merigliano and Lesica (1998) noted herbarium specimens from 1825 that